

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:PHWACKERBARTH
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 114060

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ES

SUBJECT: MISS UNIVERSE CONTEST AIRLINE SEAT REQUEST

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1986, STATE 112000

1. ROBERTO POMA, DIRECTOR OF SALVADORAN TOURIST INSTITUTE, MET WITH EDWARD RECTOR, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT THE CAB, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN TODAY TO PRESS SALVADORAN CASE FOR FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT CONTESTANTS.

2. POMA MADE CASE ON BASIS OF IMPORTANCE OF TOURIST INDUSTRY TO EL SALVADOR, A COUNTRY WITH LIMITED SOURCES OF INCOME, AND IMPORTANCE OF MISS UNIVERSE CONTEST AS A STIMULUS TO TOURIST INDUSTRY. CONTESTANTS IN POMA'S VIEW ARE THEREFORE PROMOTERS OF TOURISM AND ELIGIBLE FOR FREE TRANSPORTATION UNDER CAB REGULATIONS. CAB, ACCORDING TO POMA, DID NOT ACCEPT THIS ARGUMENT BUT AGREED TO REFER CASE TO A BOARD OF REVIEW.

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3. IN MEETING WITH RYAN, POMA ASKED FOR DEPARTMENT'S

SUPPORT. WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD EXPRESS OUR INTEREST IN THE CASE TO THE CAB AND EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM TO EL SALVADOR'S DEVELOPMENT, BUT NOTED THAT THE CAB FUNCTIONS AS AN AUTONOMOUS AGENCY. WE ALSO NOTED THAT APPLICATIONS FOR FREE TRANSPORT AUTHORIZATION ARE USUALLY MADE BY CARRIER AND THAT INDIRECT SUPPORT FROM PAN AMERICAN DID NOT ENHANCE SALVADORAN CASE.

4. POMA WILL RETURN TO SAN SALVADOR TOMORROW. AMBASSADOR BERTRAND GALINDO WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS CASE BEFORE BOARD OF REVIEW. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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